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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

JANUARY 1991

DILHR
DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

	INDICATOR	SOURCES
L1	Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2	Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3	Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5	Total Job Openings Received	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6	New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7	Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wi. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8	Building Plans Examined	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C1	Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Milw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2	Total Unemployment Rate	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3	Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4	New Car Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Transportation
C5	Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6	Total Security Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7	Manufacturing Employment	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C8	Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9	Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10	Contract Construction Employment	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X1	Birth Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
X2	Death Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
X3	Natural Net Gain in Population	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
X4	Marriage Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
X5	Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
X6	Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
X7	Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wi. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
X8	Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X9	Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment Program.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading of coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically.

COVER PHOTO: Courtesy of Wisconsin Division of Tourism Development

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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

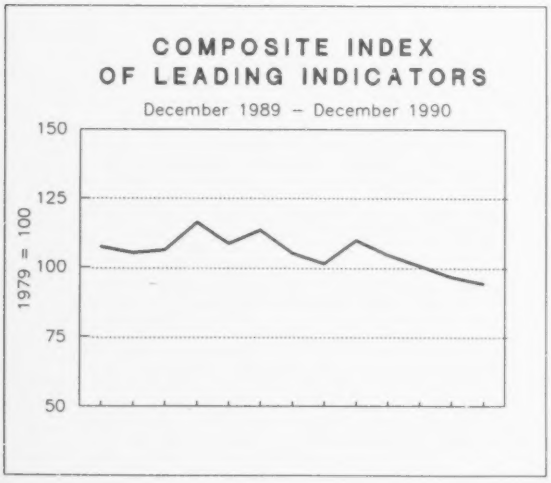
SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

COMPOSITE INDEX

Wisconsin's Composite Index of leading economic indicators decreased to 94.2 in December, a 2.5 percentage point drop. This is the fourth consecutive monthly decline of the index, but is the least severe monthly drop since September.

The largest factors in the index decrease were a large decrease in the number of job openings received by public Job Service offices and a large decrease in the number of commercial and industrial building plans examined.

Some positive indications emerged in December. The average workweek in manufacturing lengthened and the average weekly overtime in manufacturing grew.



LEADING INDICATORS

Production workers in Wisconsin manufacturing industries logged-in an average 42.5 hours per week in December. That is an increase of 1.6 hours in a weekly average of one month earlier. December's average is the second highest of the year, and the increase is well above the normal seasonal trend. However, the average workweek in November had fallen to much below normal for the month.

Overtime, too, increased by an unusually large amount in December. The average weekly overtime level reached 4.8 hours, an increase of 1.3 hours over the month earlier.

While the workweek increased, the number of workers in manufacturing decreased slightly. The manufacturing employment decrease was less than seasonally normal, and the total labor input into manufacturing, employment times hours worked, increased.

The average weekly initial claims for unemployment compensation increased by 5,309 in December. The initial claims level rose to an over 17,000 average, which is the highest since 1984. Somewhat comforting is that the claims average usually is highest in December and about eighty percent of this month's increase is related to normal seasonal factors.

The number of job openings received by public Job Service offices throughout the state decreased by 2,860 in December. A decrease of just over 1,300 would have been normal.

A bright spot was new business incorporations in Wisconsin during December. The new incorporations increased to 720 from 515 one month earlier. That is above the usual December increase.

Both the net change in business telephone access lines and the number of commercial and industrial building plans examined decreased during the month.

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Unit	Monthly Series			% Change		Avg.
		Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	1989
LEADING INDICATORS							
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	DECEMBER	94.2	96.7	107.4	-2.6%	-12.3%	106.5
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.							
Unadjusted	Hours	DECEMBER	42.5	40.9	42.0	3.9%	1.2%	41.5
Seasonally Adjusted			42.0	40.4	41.4	4.0%	1.4%	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.							
Unadjusted	Hours	DECEMBER	4.8	3.5	4.1	37.1%	17.1%	3.9
Seasonally Adjusted			4.5	3.3	3.8	36.4%	18.4%	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS							
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	17,349	12,040	14,995	44.1%	15.7%	7425
Seasonally Adjusted			9,527	9,046	8,235	5.3%	15.7%	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED							
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	2948	5808	4163	-49.2%	-29.2%	7383
Seasonally Adjusted			4342	6615	6133	-34.4%	-29.2%	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS							
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	720	515	678	39.8%	6.2%	602
Seasonally Adjusted			617	595	581	3.7%	6.2%	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS TELEPHONE ACCESS LINES							
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	1511	1526	3177	-1.0%	-52.4%	2784
Seasonally Adjusted			2426	2551	3136	-4.9%	-22.6%	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED							
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	349	627	483	-44.3%	-27.7%	610
Seasonally Adjusted			453	582	627	-22.2%	-27.8%	
COINCIDING INDICATORS							
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	SEPTEMBER	74	71	73	4.2%	1.4%	88
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL							
Unadjusted	Percent	DECEMBER	4.4	4.0	4.2	.....	.....	4.4
Seasonally Adjusted			4.5	4.2	4.3	.....	.....	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES							
Unadjusted	Mil.	OCTOBER	155.7	81.5	140.7	91.0%	10.7%	201.5
Seasonally Adjusted	Therms		202.7	193.6	183.3	4.7%	10.6%	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	11,797	12,378	11,907	-4.7%	-0.9%	14,665
Seasonally Adjusted			17,134	16,227	17,294	5.6%	-0.9%	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES							
Unadjusted	Mil.	OCTOBER	2925.7	3435.9	3437.1	-14.8%	-14.9%	2982.3
Seasonally Adjusted	KWH		2857.1	3498.9	3358.2	-18.3%	-14.9%	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS							
Unadjusted	Mil. $	DECEMBER	198.3	360.9	95.3	-45.1%	108.1%	145.7
Seasonally Adjusted			212.8	386.4	102.3	-44.9%	108.0%	

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Unit	Monthly Series				% Change		Avg.
		Latest Month		Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	1989
C7 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT								
Unadjusted	Thous.	DECEMBER	551.5	553.2	552.7	-0.3%	-0.2%	556.6
Seasonally Adjusted			554.8	553.8	556.2	0.2%	-0.3%	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	Dollars	DECEMBER	$490.03	$458.08	$460.32	7.0%	6.5%	$446.49
Seasonally Adjusted			$477.61	$449.10	$448.81	6.3%	6.4%	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.								
Unadjusted	Mil. $	SEPTEMBER	504.6	525.8	487.0	-4.0%	3.6%	456.8
Seasonally Adjusted			479.2	518.5	462.6	-7.6%	3.6%	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.								
Unadjusted	Thous.	DECEMBER	81.8	86.5	82.3	-5.4%	-0.6%	80.8
Seasonally Adjusted			84.6	81.9	85.1	3.3%	-0.6%	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS								
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	5049	5592	5245	-9.7%	-3.7%	5761
Seasonally Adjusted			5423	6138	5634	-11.6%	-3.7%	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	3392	3514	3461	-3.5%	-2.0%	3425
Seasonally Adjusted			3348	3634	3418	-7.9%	-2.0%	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION								
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	1657	2078	1784	-20.3%	-7.1%	2336
Seasonally Adjusted			2090	2507	2251	-16.6%	-7.2%	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	1707	2623	1765	-34.9%	-3.3%	3353
Seasonally Adjusted			3043	3214	3148	-5.3%	-3.3%	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			(Jun '90)	(Dec '89)	(Jun '89)			
Unadjusted (1982-1984 = 100)	Index	JUNE	123.9	121.2	120.3	2.2%	3.0%	120.8
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS								
Unadjusted	Index	DECEMBER	142	146	168	-2.7%	-15.5%	149
Seasonally Adjusted			140	143	165	-2.1%	-15.2%	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	2392	4034	1473	-40.7%	62.4%	1853
Seasonally Adjusted			2950	3213	1925	-8.2%	53.2%	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS								
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	336	336	311	0.0%	8.0%	375
Seasonally Adjusted			7636	7467	7045	2.3%	8.4%	
X9 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXHAUSTEES								
Unadjusted	Number	DECEMBER	9,131	8,808	9,197	3.7%	-0.7%	10436
Seasonally Adjusted			10,101	9,808	10,173	3.0%	-0.7%	

Section

B LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES DECEMBER	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Unadjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2598.3	2613.4	2593.2	-0.6%	0.2%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	2483.1	2507.9	2483.9	-1.0%	-0.0%
Unemployment	115.2	105.5	109.3	9.2%	5.4%
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.0%	4.2%	.....	.....
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2617.1	2622.9	2611.8	-0.2%	0.2%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	2498.1	2512.9	2498.9	-0.6%	-0.0%
Unemployment	119.0	110.0	112.9	8.2%	5.4%
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.2%	4.3%	.....	.....

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES DECEMBER Unadjusted	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	2286.9	2298.1	2262.0	-0.5%	1.1%
Contract Construction	81.8	86.5	82.3	-5.4%	-0.6%
Manufacturing	551.2	552.9	552.4	-0.3%	-0.2%
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	102.7	102.4	102.3	0.3%	0.4%
Electric, Gas and Sanitary Services	17.0	17.1	17.2	-0.6%	-1.2%
Wholesale Trade	124.8	124.5	119.1	0.2%	4.8%
Retail Trade	427.2	425.9	423.5	0.3%	0.9%
General Merchandise	54.7	54.1	56.2	1.1%	-2.7%
Food Stores	64.9	64.0	63.4	1.4%	2.4%
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	45.8	45.8	44.8	0.0%	2.2%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	122.4	121.9	119.4	0.4%	2.5%
Banks & Depository Institutions	40.0	39.8	39.7	0.5%	0.8%
Insurance Carriers	43.5	43.3	41.7	0.5%	4.3%
Service and Miscellaneous	525.1	527.2	515.8	-0.4%	1.8%
Business Services	81.6	81.6	82.2	0.0%	-0.7%
Health Services	185.2	185.2	179.0	0.0%	3.5%
Hospitals	78.2	78.2	75.1	0.0%	4.1%
Private Education	28.2	28.0	27.2	0.7%	3.7%
Social Services	43.3	42.9	39.3	0.9%	10.2%
Government	349.8	354.2	345.1	-1.2%	1.4%
State Government	90.9	92.8	88.4	-2.0%	2.8%
Local Government	229.9	232.4	227.0	-1.1%	1.3%

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES JANUARY	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	124,638	125,174	124,489	-0.4%	0.1%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	116,922	117,574	117,945	-0.6%	-0.9%
Unemployment	7,715	7,600	6,544	1.5%	17.9%
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.1%	5.3%	.....	.....

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT Unadjusted DECEMBER	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing	551.2	552.9	552.4	-0.3%	-0.2%
Durable Goods	330.1	330.3	334.1	-0.1%	-1.2%
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	25.7	26.2	26.3	-1.9%	-2.3%
Millwork, Plywood & Related	14.0	14.3	14.4	-2.1%	-2.8%
Furniture and Fixtures	12.5	12.5	12.4	0.0%	0.8%
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	7.4	8.1	7.4	-8.6%	0.0%
Primary Metal Industries	21.8	21.7	22.0	0.5%	-0.9%
Iron and Steel Foundries	11.6	11.6	11.5	0.0%	0.9%
Fabricated Metal Products	60.9	60.8	58.8	0.2%	3.6%
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	14.0	14.1	13.9	-0.7%	0.7%
Metal Stampings	13.5	13.5	12.7	0.0%	6.3%
Industrial Machinery	107.8	107.8	110.9	0.0%	-2.8%
Engines and Turbines	14.4	14.6	16.4	-1.4%	-12.2%
Farm & Garden Machinery	12.1	12.0	12.6	0.8%	-4.0%
Construction & Related Machinery	12.6	12.6	12.7	0.0%	-0.8%
Metalworking Machinery	16.2	16.3	16.1	-0.6%	0.6%
Special Industry Machinery	13.4	13.5	13.7	-0.7%	-2.2%
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	13.9	13.8	13.5	0.7%	3.0%
Electronic & Other Electrical Machinery	35.7	35.6	37.9	0.3%	-5.8%
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	13.2	13.2	13.7	0.0%	-3.6%
Transportation Equipment	26.2	25.4	26.5	3.1%	-1.1%
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	18.3	17.8	18.9	2.8%	-3.2%
Instrument and Related Products	20.7	20.6	21.1	0.5%	-1.9%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.5	11.5	10.7	0.0%	7.5%
Nondurable Goods	221.1	222.7	218.3	-0.7%	1.3%
Food and Kindred Products	60.1	61.7	61.1	-2.6%	-1.6%
Meat Products	15.4	15.4	15.3	0.0%	0.7%
Dairy Products	17.2	17.2	17.4	0.0%	-1.1%
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	8.9	10.4	9.5	-14.4%	-6.3%
Textile Mill Products	3.9	3.9	4.1	0.0%	-4.9%
Apparel and Other Textiles	7.0	7.1	7.2	-1.4%	-2.8%
Paper and Allied Products	50.9	51.0	50.5	-0.2%	0.8%
Paper Mills	30.5	30.5	30.1	0.0%	1.3%
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	47.7	47.5	46.2	0.4%	3.2%
Newspapers	13.3	13.3	13.0	0.0%	2.3%
Commercial Printing	22.1	22.1	21.2	0.0%	4.2%
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.7	10.8	10.5	-0.9%	1.9%
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	34.0	33.8	31.8	0.6%	6.9%
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	27.5	27.4	25.6	0.4%	7.4%
Leather & Leather Products	6.5	6.5	6.7	0.0%	-3.0%

Section

C

WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS Unadjusted DECEMBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours		
	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing	$490.03	$458.08	$460.32	42.5	40.9	42.0
Durable Goods	496.29	454.21	463.36	42.6	40.7	42.2
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	341.12	329.00	323.90	39.3	38.3	39.5
Furniture and Fixtures	370.36	365.52	377.80	40.3	40.3	41.7
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	480.44	478.44	459.45	43.4	44.3	45.4
Primary Metal Industries	497.13	452.35	475.00	43.8	40.9	43.9
Iron and Steel Foundries	523.04	470.42	493.70	46.7	43.0	46.4
Fabricated Metal Products	465.66	435.42	432.21	42.8	41.0	41.8
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	477.63	442.57	442.44	43.9	41.4	41.7
Metal Stampings	484.96	457.73	452.61	43.3	42.5	42.3
Industrial Machinery	556.48	517.48	541.45	44.2	41.8	44.2
Engines and Turbines	614.32	546.06	613.99	43.6	39.8	43.7
Farm & Gardem Machinery	573.56	529.13	548.44	44.6	41.5	43.7
Construction & Related Machinery	615.25	579.21	596.90	47.4	44.9	47.0
Metalworking Machinery	577.70	552.50	573.27	43.6	42.5	44.2
Special Industry Machinery	582.56	539.75	559.22	44.2	42.4	45.8
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	478.47	462.59	442.85	43.3	41.6	42.5
Electronic & Other Electrical Machinery	428.07	410.23	398.94	41.2	40.9	41.6
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	441.00	435.02	416.07	42.0	42.4	41.9
Transportation Equipment	736.21	520.91	580.17	44.7	36.3	40.6
Instrument and Related Products	483.55	473.55	428.61	41.4	41.0	39.0
Nondurable Goods	478.55	463.20	454.69	42.2	41.1	41.6
Food and Kindred Products	457.52	433.01	438.46	42.6	41.2	41.6
Meat Products	416.22	379.29	417.73	42.0	39.8	41.4
Dairy Products	446.40	441.63	423.61	42.8	42.1	41.9
Textile Mill Products	395.79	368.60	364.59	39.5	38.8	42.1
Apparel and Other Textiles	289.41	282.65	269.97	39.7	38.3	38.9
Paper and Allied Products	636.09	620.93	601.66	45.5	44.1	44.7
Paper Mills	682.64	668.42	664.45	46.0	44.8	46.4
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	473.62	468.08	447.93	39.7	39.5	39.5
Chemicals and Allied Products	433.90	435.78	416.85	40.4	40.5	39.7
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	375.97	361.15	361.18	41.0	39.6	40.4
Leather & Leather Products	314.08	296.74	278.59	41.6	39.2	40.2

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS Unadjusted DECEMBER	Including Overtime			Excluding Overtime		
	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$11.53	$11.20	$10.96	$10.91	$10.75	$10.45
Durable Goods	11.65	11.16	10.98	11.03	10.78	10.50
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	8.68	8.59	8.20	8.40	8.37	7.95
Furniture and Fixtures	9.19	9.07	9.06	8.71	8.83	8.79
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	11.07	10.80	10.12	10.49	10.02	9.48
Primary Metal Industries	11.35	11.06	10.82	10.61	10.54	10.24
Iron and Steel Foundries	11.20	10.94	10.64	10.44	10.37	10.04
Fabricated Metal Products	10.88	10.62	10.34	10.32	10.21	9.90
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	10.88	10.69	10.61	10.22	10.27	10.08
Metal Stampings	11.20	10.77	10.70	10.86	10.51	10.20
Industrial Machinery	12.59	12.38	12.25	11.93	11.96	11.57
Engines and Turbines	14.09	13.72	14.05	13.12	13.33	13.14
Farm & Garden Machinery	12.86	12.75	12.55	12.35	12.46	12.03
Construction & Related Machinery	12.98	12.90	12.70	12.26	12.47	11.84
Metalworking Machinery	13.25	13.00	12.97	12.53	12.43	12.27
Special Industry Machinery	13.18	12.73	12.21	12.48	12.20	11.40
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	11.05	11.12	10.42	10.57	10.69	10.03
Electronic & Other Electrical Machinery	10.39	10.03	9.59	9.93	9.70	9.23
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.50	10.26	9.93	10.00	9.96	9.58
Transportation Equipment	16.47	14.35	14.29	14.98	14.22	13.87
Instrument and Related Products	11.68	11.55	10.99	11.23	11.24	10.82
Nondurable Goods	11.34	11.27	10.93	10.73	10.71	10.37
Food and Kindred Products	10.74	10.51	10.54	10.10	9.94	9.94
Meat Products	9.91	9.53	10.09	9.33	9.11	9.42
Dairy Products	10.43	10.49	10.11	9.80	9.87	9.58
Textile Mill Products	10.02	9.50	8.66	9.50	9.29	8.33
Apparel and Other Textiles	7.29	7.38	6.94	7.06	7.21	6.74
Paper and Allied Products	13.98	14.08	13.46	13.17	13.23	12.70
Paper Mills	14.84	14.92	14.32	14.01	14.07	13.45
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	11.93	11.85	11.34	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.74	10.76	10.50	10.33	10.30	10.11
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	9.17	9.12	8.94	8.80	8.79	8.55
Leather & Leather Products	7.55	7.57	6.93	7.18	7.27	6.70

Section

C

SUMMARY OF AREA DATA

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT Unadjusted DECEMBER	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
United States	18751.0	18832.0	19320.0	-0.4%	-2.9%
Wisconsin	551.2	552.9	552.4	-0.3%	-0.2%
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	52.9	53.2	53.6	-0.6%	-1.3%
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	10.7	10.8	11.4	-0.9%	-6.1%
Green Bay (Brown County)	24.3	24.6	24.6	-1.2%	-1.2%
Janesville-Beloit (Rock Co.)	17.6	17.7	18.2	-0.6%	-3.3%
Kenosha (County)	9.7	8.9	9.9	9.0%	-2.0%
La Crosse (County)	10.2	10.1	10.3	1.0%	-1.0%
Madison (Dane County)	26.4	26.4	25.0	0.0%	5.6%
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Washington-Waukesha)	172.5	172.6	173.6	-0.1%	-0.6%
Racine (County)	25.9	25.9	26.5	0.0%	-2.3%
Sheboygan (County)	22.0	22.1	22.1	-0.5%	-0.5%
Wausau (Marathon County)	15.1	15.2	15.2	-0.7%	-0.7%

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers (Unadjusted) DECEMBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			
							Incl. Overtime		Excl. Overtime	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	$460.24	$447.98	$441.08	41.5	40.8	41.3	$11.09	$10.98	.....	.....
Wisconsin	490.03	458.08	460.32	42.5	40.9	42.0	11.53	11.20	10.91	10.75
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	551.80	525.68	518.20	44.5	42.6	43.4	12.40	12.34	11.76	11.71
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	490.62	491.21	498.85	42.7	42.9	44.5	11.49	11.45	10.99	10.96
Green Bay (Brown County)	544.72	504.19	493.58	44.0	41.6	41.9	12.38	12.12	11.49	11.46
Janesville-Beloit (Rock Co.)	459.92	442.13	509.16	36.3	35.8	40.7	12.67	12.35	12.01	11.86
Kenosha (County)	539.22	447.43	479.00	43.0	40.2	41.4	12.54	11.13	11.85	10.73
La Crosse (County)	416.33	414.12	380.83	42.7	42.0	39.1	9.75	9.86	9.31	9.48
Madison (Dane County)	439.77	424.04	419.02	41.1	40.5	41.0	10.70	10.47	10.15	10.04
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Washington-Waukesha)	507.10	486.67	501.40	42.4	41.0	42.6	11.96	11.87	11.30	11.35
Racine (County)	495.97	470.84	465.66	41.4	39.6	41.1	11.98	11.89	11.38	11.34
Sheboygan (County)	481.06	461.76	470.85	43.3	41.6	43.8	11.11	11.10	10.82	10.77
Wausau (Marathon County)	484.34	466.95	461.47	43.4	42.8	43.7	11.16	10.91	10.58	10.42

WISCONSIN'S LEADING INDICATORS

What do the indicators tell us of our economy?

by Joseph Tumpach, Jr.

In the last four years, those measurements of economic activity which tend to change before general economic conditions, the leading indicators, have shown consistent growth. By looking at the leading indicators for 1990, in the context of four years' trends, analysts can make plausible projections of economic growth.

We do not know at any particular time whether or not the economy is at a turning point. Our economy is so diverse and complex that keeping tabs on it is difficult. Estimating total employment and total unemployment throughout the country requires a survey of sixty-thousand households, and the procedure takes three weeks to collect the data and process it into preliminary estimates. By the time the employment data is available, the economic conditions may have changed. Another problem is that different segments of the economy behave differently. Some industries may grow rapidly during economic expansion, others may grow slowly. And some industries, manufacturing particularly, seem vulnerable to swings of the business cycle, while others, service industries, seem nearly unaffected.

To gauge the state of the economy and the direction it is heading, analysts have compiled series of economic indicators, series of economic data that tend to move up or down in conjunction with the economy as a whole, or which move up or down before or after general economic conditions change.

In Wisconsin, we often gauge the state of our economy by the health of our labor market. One of the factors of production is labor, and as production and business increase or decrease, the need for workers varies. Many, though not all, of Wisconsin's indicators measure the labor input to our economy. Other indicators measure the trends of business formation or population growth, which in turn, signal the need for workers or the potential supply of workers.

What do the Wisconsin economic indicators tell us about our economy in 1990. Of prime interest, are the total employment and total unemployment levels throughout the state.

While the employment level during the year averaged lower than the previous year, there were, in 1990, fewer people working or looking for work. The level of unemployment in Wisconsin decreased between three and four thousand, and the unemployment rate decreased during the year.

A usually reliable indicator of unemployment trends is the number of initial claims for unemployment compensation. An initial claim for unemployment compensation is normally made at the beginning of a term of unemployment, so, a change in the

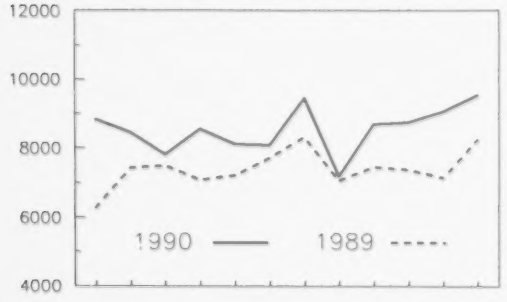
initial claims level represents a growing or diminishing unemployment level. What can complicate the situation is that some workers have been laid off for several weeks and are well past their initial claiming. Those workers can be recalled to work and will no longer be unemployed. At that same time, initial claims could increase, but net unemployment could remain the same or even decrease. However, the business conditions that would cause a layoff would also tend to prolong the unemployment spell of those already laid off. In practice, the initial claims level has been not only a good indicator, but has been a good leading indicator of the unemployment situation. That is, the claims level increases or decreases several months before an increase or decrease in unemployment.

The number of initial claims for unemployment compensation in Wisconsin increased in 1990 from the year before. But the increase was not consistent for the first eight months. Since September of 1990, the average weekly initial claims level has risen steadily. If the normal relationship between initial claims and total unemployment holds, the state could face a rising unemployment level.

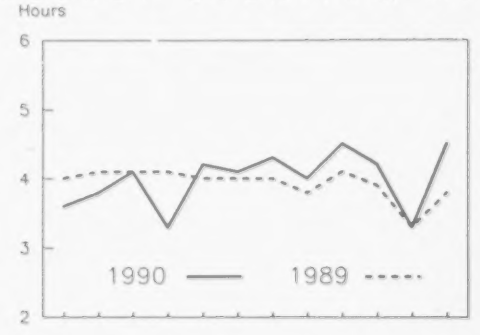
Another set of reliable leading indicators of employment and unemployment change are the average workweek and the average weekly overtime hours in manufacturing industries. The weekly average number of hours spent on the job by production workers varies within a range of about 38 to 42 hours. That range seems to compose a standard workweek that has been in effect for years. Thus, consistent increases or decreases within that range are due to cyclical changes of the economy rather than long-range growth of manufacturing. With the on-set of a business expansion or slowdown, employers will normally increase or decrease the number of hours worked per week before hiring or laying off workers. So, the average workweek level is a leading indicator of employment trends. The average workweek decreased slightly in 1990 in the state, but that was offset by a small increase in the average level of manufacturing employment.

The average number of weekly overtime hours in manufacturing tends to move in conjunction with the average workweek: the overtime hours are a component of the average workweek. The average overtime during 1990 was a bit more than in the year before.

INITIAL CLAIMS FOR UNEMP. COMPENSATION

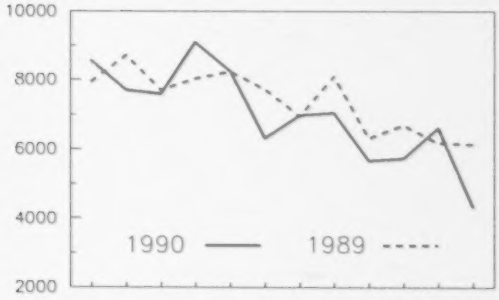


WEEKLY OVERTIME, MFG.



Another indicator of the demand for labor is the number of job openings received by public Job Service offices throughout the state. The number of job openings recieved does not represent the total number of job opportunities, however, for many employers use methods other than the Job Service to recruit workers. Nevertheless, consistent changes in the job openings figure do foreshadow employment change as job openings are "filled" by employers. The total number of job openings received in 1990 amounted to nearly 84,000, down by almost 5,000 thousand from the previous year.

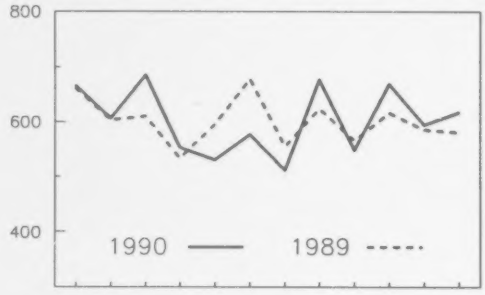
JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED



Among Wisconsin's leading economic indicators are indicators of business formation. While businesses are formed to gain profit, labor is a necessary factor in the production of goods and services. Thus, business formation means job growth.

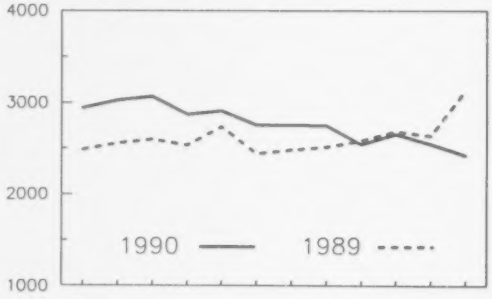
The monthly number of new business incorporations signify employment growth to the extent that new incorporations represent new business starts. Of course, some new incorporations are former partnerships or single owner businesses that do not hire new employees, but there is a correlation between change in the level of new incorporations and the level of employment several months later. New incorporations in 1990 exceeded the number in 1989. While there is variation from month to month, the yearly number of new incorporations has risen steadily since 1987. The number of new incorporations averaged 548 per month in 1987. The new incorporations count averaged 603 per month in 1990.

NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS



The monthly net gain in business telephone access lines is the statewide number of installations minus the number of removals; and is the number of access lines only, rather than extensions to already existing telephone lines. Thus, a net gain in the number represents a gain in business sites, and so, a gain of employment. The monthly gain, adjusted for seasonal variation, averaged 2767 in 1990, up from 2617 in 1989.

NET GAIN IN BUSINESS TELEPHONE ACCESS LINES



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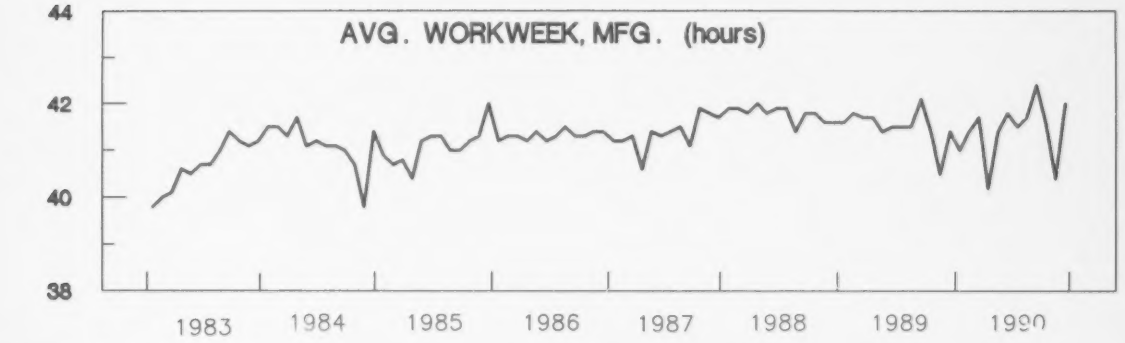
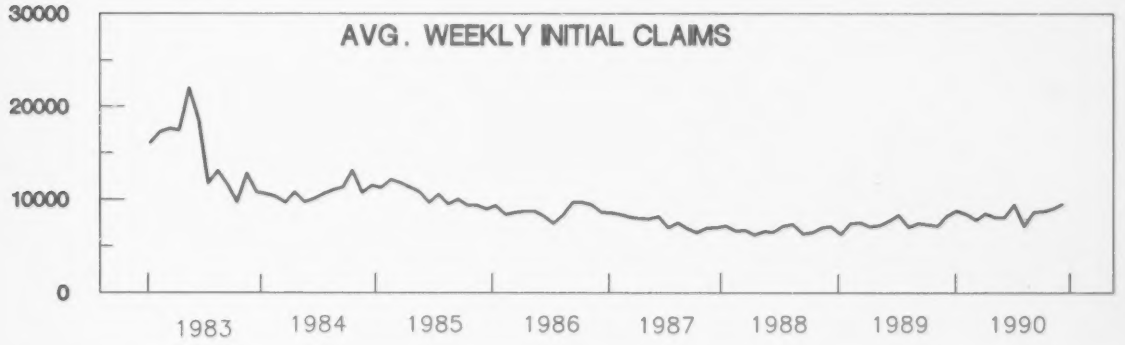
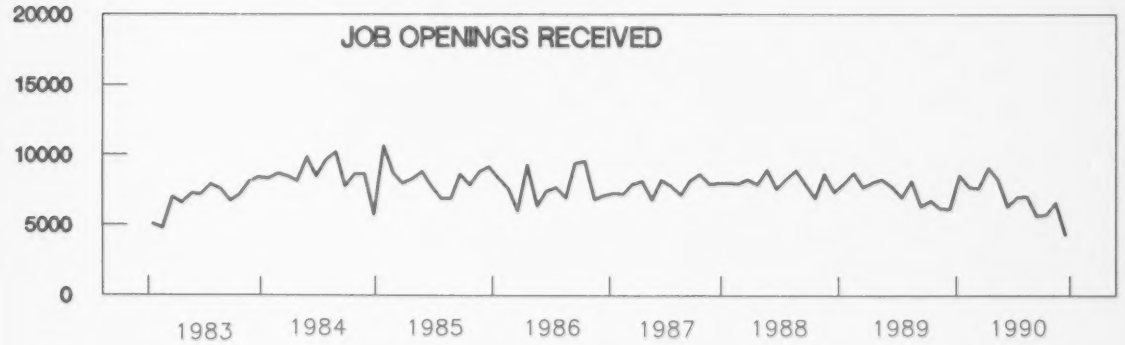
Section

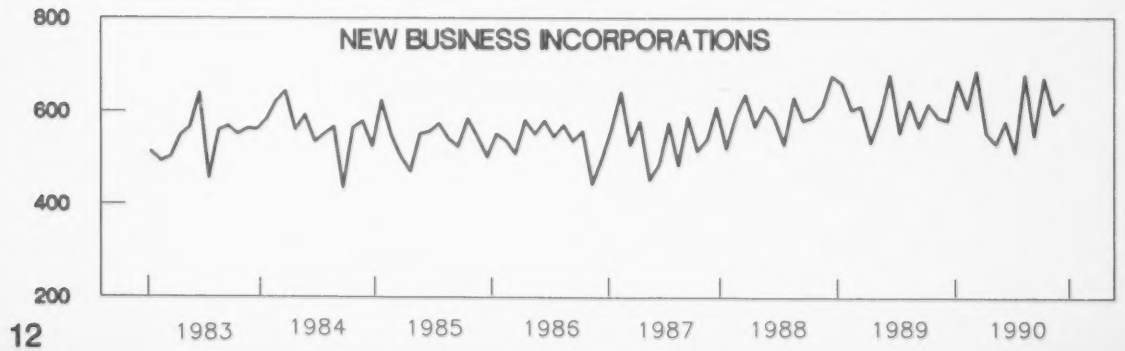
D

CYCLICAL INDICATORS

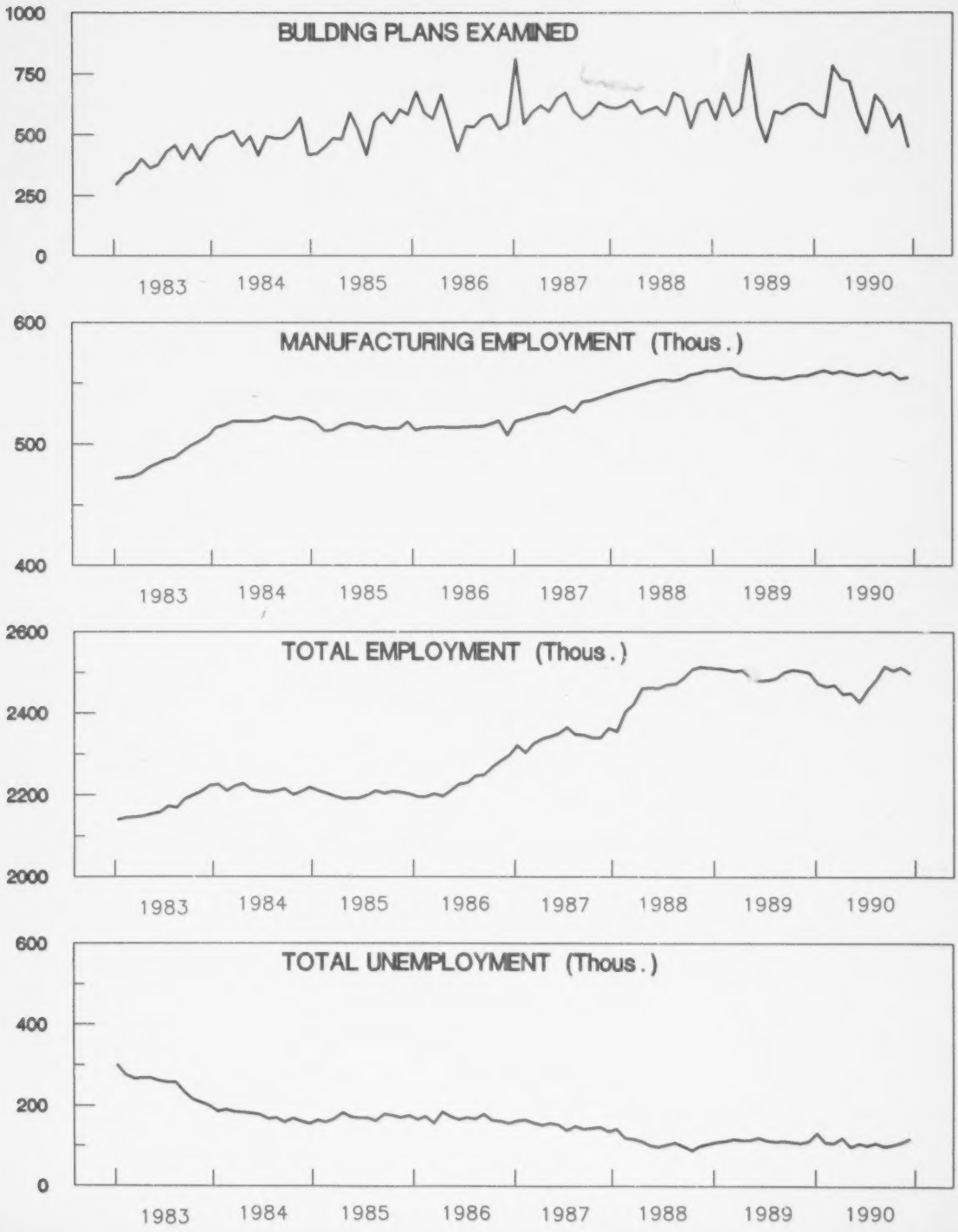








D CYCLICAL INDICATORS



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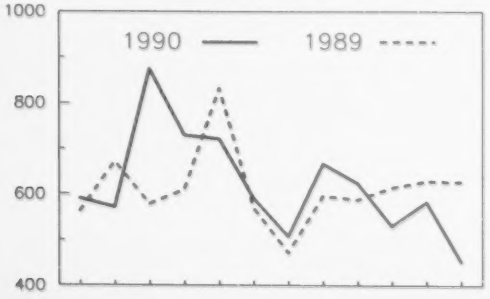
(Continued from page 11)

The monthly number of building plans examined also represents future employment change. All plans for new and remodeled commercial and industrial buildings must be examined by state officials for safety reasons. Plans examined in 1990 equalled the 1989 number.

BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED



Wisconsin's leading economic indicators do a good job of foreshadowing changes in our state's employment level. Different indicators lead employment changes by different amounts of time. Generally, those data involving labor measurement such as hours worked, claims for unemployment compensation, and job openings have a "lead time" of about three of four months. Indicators of business formation, generally, have a longer lead time.